GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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Contents for Week of November 14, 1927. Vol. VI. No. 17

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ON A NOISY ROAD TO KNOWLEDGE

All the children in a Chinese class study aloud, chanting rhythmically the words in their lesson. The teacher walks about the room, listening to first one and then another and correcting mistakes in pronunciation.

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

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The Mighty Eater of Etah, Dean of an Eskimo Village

YOU already know, from your study of geography, that every human being, barbaric or civilized, must have certain things in order to live, such things as food, clothing, shelter, tools, fuel, in most places, and playthings.

Many of your school geographies start with the life of the Eskimos, a primitive but hard-working and intelligent people, because they obtain all these things in very direct fashion, in contrast to the more complex and indirect ways of more advanced communities.

Here is the story of Akkomidingwa, Old Man of the North, once a mighty hunter, and now a mighty eater and patriarch of Etah, Greenland.

Most Northerly Settlement of the World

Etah is an Eskimo village, the most northerly permanent settlement anywhere in the world. And the story of this village and its Old Man is told from first-hand observation of a correspondent of the National Geographic Society. It was forwarded by radio, "the machine that talks through the air," the Eskimos call it.

"Etah's population is unstable," the explorer says.

"Tupik and igloo, summer tent and winter rock house, are not always in the same location. The Eskimo, still a hunter, moves his dwelling to sea or hill according to whether he is pursuing the savage walrus or searching his stone or metal traps for blue foxes or other game. Summer or winter there are likely to be Eskimo settlements at Anoritok and other places farther north.

The Tribe's Best Hunter

"Akkomidingwa came to be known as Old-Crick-In-The-Back. He is father of the tribe's best hunter, Kookapingwa. The old man has staked out for himself a sitting-out job and taken into his home as partner and helpmate a seventeen-year-old girl whose industry is as unnoticeable as his own.

"As an eater, Akkomidingwa is without a peer among the Smith Sound Eskimos, and he is as regular with his meals as there are meals. Acquisitive by nature, his stomach, acting as general staff of operations, looks out for itself first.

"When I first heard of him he was reputed the greatest 'bummer' and beggar among a people whose way of inviting themselves to partake of the white man's food might beget more censure were it not for the fact that when opportunity arises they are as eager to share their own as another's.

Carves Walrus Tusk Toys

"Akkomidingwa is as clever as any of his juniors and has a real sense of humor. His head not only serves his feet and his stomach but contains a craftiness that he is ready to place at the disposal of his friends. When an infrequent visitor wants a section of walrus tusk made into a gavel head bearing the insignia of his lodge, Akkomidingwa is the one who can do the job, for he has had practice in making toys for the children.

"When Nookapingwa sailed for Ellesmere Island on a steamer, Akkomidingwa shed real tears, not so much as the temporary loss of his meal ticket, for Nookapingwa's caches of walrus meat will always be at his father's disposal, as at the thought that they may never meet again. Akkomidingwa, clever at keeping in-

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GATHERING NORTH CAROLINA'S THIRD RICHEST CROP

While the turpentine products of her pine forests are on the decline, the State is still rich in timber resources. Its three belts are: the coastal plain (upland forests chiefly of pine), the piedmont plateau (pine forests mixed with hardwoods), and the mountains (hardwoods). North Carolina has 24 varieties of oaks, eight of the nine known varieties of hickory, all of the maple, linden, and magnolia varieties known in the Eastern States, and eight varieties of pine out of eleven (see Bulletin No. 4).

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Earthquake Isolates Jerusalem's Wailing Place

THE Wailing Place of the Jews at Jerusalem, which has been barred to worshippers as unsafe since the Palestine earthquake last summer, is one of the historic spots of the Holy City.

The Wailing Place is situated just outside the western wall of the Temple in a quarter inhabited by Jews and many ink-black Mograbins from North Africa. During long years of Mohammedan dominion it was the nearest part of the sacred inclusure which a Jew dared approach.

Stones Worn Down by Foreheads of Mourners

In a narrow alley between two walls, one low and insignificant, formed by backs of yards and Mograbin houses, the other a towering 60-foot buttress of the old temple since the Middle Ages, Jews have gathered on Friday afternoons and Saturdays to wail "for majesty that is departed, for walls that are overthrown."

The peculiar desolation of the sight has attracted attention from all parts of the globe. The wall itself rises sheer as a cliff, huge stone blocks from between whose unplastered crevices spring small sprigs of growing plants. Lower stones bearing Hebrew inscriptions have been worn smooth and shiny in spots by the foreheads of generations of mourners.

Women in shawls and old men in skirted robes and flowing locks mix with young Jews in European dress, recent immigrant colonists, or "pioneers," among whom are occasionally seen costumes from the world of fashion. They seem resentful of onlookers, though the wailers themselves appear oblivious to gazing tourists as they repeat again and again a desolate chant which mourns the passing of the ancient glories of their nation. At times some self-appointed leader repeats the lines of a dirge and intermittently the others join in with the refrain, "We sit in solitude and mourn."

A Part of the Temple Walls

The wall at whose foot the wailing takes place is one of the retaining walls of the Temple. This famous structure was built on the summit of Mount Moriah, where it is said Abraham made his preparations for the sacrifice of Isaac, on a flat rock which later became the threshing floor of Ornan, the Jebusite. This threshing floor was purchased by David as an offering to the Lord, and here Solomon erected the Temple whose magnificence is traditional. The original building was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar at the time of the captivity, but it was rebuilt seventy years later.

This was the Temple enlarged and glorified by Herod about eighteen years before Christ's birth, in which Christ conversed with the doctors as a child and from whose courts He cast out the money changers. The building was destroyed by the Roman Emperor Titus after his siege of Jerusalem in the latter part of the first century.

Present Site of Mosque of Omar

Upon the same site, and using part of the same foundational substructure, more than 500 years later the Mohammedan Emir Abd el Malek built the so-called Mosque of Omar, which still rears its magnificent dome and graceful arches over the old altar of Solomon, the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, on the summit of Mount Moriah.

side the law, is committing that unpardonable sin against the cruel north. He is getting old.

"When Akkomidingwa salvages gasoline boxes and coffee cans from the wreckage of expedition work, some of his fellows think him stingy and grasping, but it is really foresight which prompts him to gather fuel for his American cook stove, also salvaged in other years, so that his rock igloo, embellished by his youthful mate and the colorful labels from cans which to him are not entirely legendary fruits, will not be without cheer in that day when cold and hunger exact their toll and the dean of the Smith Sound Eskimos of Etah goes home, let us hope, to a land where the joys of the stomach are not unknown.

"It was not mere chance that enabled our leader to picture for Geographic readers the Eskimo patriarch in the act of eating. That is one task in which Akkomidingwa, whose hard work has long since, if ever, been done, is still a leader without a peer."*

*For pictures of the Eskimos see the Pictorial Geography set entitled "Eskimo Life—Sahara Life" which may be had from the headquarters of the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C. Description of all the sets in the Pictorial Geography series, and price list, sent upon application.

Bullletin No. 1, November 14, 1927.

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NOO-KA-PING-WA AND HIS HARPOON TROPHY

In capturing this walrus head there was plenty of excitement for all. At least a hundred walrus were in the herd which gave battle to the hunters. One kayak was overturned, two bladder floats were punctured by enraged walrus bulls, and the herd was kept at bay by rapid fire from high-power rifles. Three walrus were dragged in for meat and museum specimens (see Bulletin above).

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China's Great Wall, Man's Mightiest Structure

ARMIES marching on the Great Wall of China* from the north recently made that "eighth wonder of the world" a front-line "trench" of China. The wall was built in the third century before the birth of Christ, to be a barrier between civilized China and barbaric Mongolia. Since that it has been the scene of hundreds of conflicts for the Dragon Throne.

The "Wan-li-chang-cheng," or Myriad Li Wall, as the Chinese call it, extends over 1,250 miles, while its turnings and windings make its actual length almost 2,000 miles. This means that it would stretch from Portugal to Naples or from Philadelphia to Topeka, in nearly the same latitude.

Wall Forms a Racial Boundary

At all times and at all seasons the Great Wall gives the impression of being a boundary between two worlds—not only a natural boundary but a racial boundary also. "It is," as Geil says, "a dividing line between two civilizations and two areas. In space it cuts off the herdsmen of the north from the tillers of the south. The wave of true Chinese civilization rolled southward, engulfing all it met on its way until it reached the boundary of the ocean. Thus all, from wall to water, owned the sway of the sons of Chin."

The Great Wall was never effective. China was overwhelmed again and again, in spite of it, by the huge racial movements of the Tatar hordes, which for 2,000 years devastated Asia and even troubled Europe; but it did prove valuable as a rampart against petty raids, and its moral effect on any but the greatest conquerors must have been tremendous.

Only a man with stout heart and tremendous military resources would dare attempt a passage of a barrier whose watchtowers in accessible passes were only 100 yards apart and even in the remotest wilds were never more than a mile from one another.

Wall's Gates Still Closed at Night

Nowadays the idea of the Great Wall as a defensive fortification is entirely abandoned. It is left frankly undefended, though the gates at the passes are still closed at night as a measure of protection against local disturbances for the cities near them.

Chin Shih Huan Ti, a contemporary of Hannibal, first built the "Long Rampart" stretching from Shanhaikwan, on the seacoast, to Minchow, in distant Kansu. Begun in 219 B. C., the barrier was completed in 204 B. C. Thus it was fifteen years in building, seven of which were after the mighty emperor's death.

Three hundred thousand troops, besides prisoners of war and all the criminals in the land, including many dishonest officials, were impressed for work. How these unskilled laborers accomplished their tasks with the primitive means at their disposal, how they overcame the physical difficulties imposed upon them by the steep slopes of the high mountain ranges, remains a marvel to this day. Moreover, the problem of getting food to them can be judged from the statement that, "of 182

*For a detailed description of "The Geography of China," see, in your library, The National Geographic Magazine for June, 1927.

Jews are not allowed to enter the Temple inclosure and hence cannot approach this sacred Mohammedan shrine nearer than its outer walls. Inasmuch as these are believed to have been part of the substructure of the Temple itself, a section was selected by Jews of medieval times as a mourning place for the fall of their national stronghold. Wailing on Friday, eve of the Jewish Sabbath, has been uninterruptedly maintained from generation to generation. Not only Jews of Jerusalem, but visitors from other lands as well, come to the temple wall to mourn. Many Jews in far-away cities are said to send money for the support of wailers to whom the spot is more accessible.*

Bulletin No. 2, November 14, 1927.

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*Teachers will be interested to know that the December issue of the National Geographic Magazine will contain an article on "The Pageant of Jerusalem," illustrated with natural color photographs.

Other articles in the November and December issues include Vasco da Gama, with a color reproduction of the famous explorer at the Court of the Zamorin of Calicut, Moneys of the World, The Children of Israel's Route, Portugal and Liechtenstein.

During the coming year more illustrated articles of the State series will appear. These articles are accompanied by up-to-date maps of the States, and illustrations of their industries, natural features and historic sites, thus forming an unsurpassed picture-map-text reference source for study of the American Commonwealths.

Many teachers inquire about membership in the National Geographic Society, which entitles them to the monthly issues of The Geographic, and also all maps and panoramas, suitable for school room decoration, as issued. Membership is obtained by nomination of someone already a member. The great majority of school superintendents are members and they are most willing to recommend their teachers because they realize the value of The Geographic in the study of geography, history, general science, biology and allied subjects.

For your convenience a nomination blank is attached:

DUES

Annual membership in U. S., $3.00; annual membership abroad, $4.00; Canada, $3.50; life membership, $100. Please make remittances payable to the National Geographic Society, and if at a distance remit by New York draft, postal or express order.

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North Carolina's New Industries

"NORTH CAROLINA is passing through a renaissance. Due to her steadily intensifying shift from cottonfields to mill centers and from once-idle streams to throbbing dynamos, she has suddenly rediscovered herself on the threshold of industrial power."

With this introduction Melville Chater tells what he saw on a motor tour of North Carolina's industry, development, historic scenes and interesting people, in a communication to the National Geographic Society, from which the following is extracted:

"For centuries wild horses have been roaming on the Cape Hatteras banks, and current tradition has it that they are descended from Barbary ponies which were brought over by Sir Walter Raleigh's colonists.

Ponies with a Pedigree

"Our quest landed us on a naked, sun-baked spit where men were driving the so-called 'banker ponies' along the beach and into a corral made of timbers from old wrecks. Perched on the pen's top rail, with the beach-pounding surf along one edge of the narrow spit and the sound, with its rough sailboats, on the other, we took lens shots at the inclosed jam of 200 horses, as they reared and kicked each other into a state of bloodied noses and wildly rolling eyes.

"Some of the herders lassoed and cut out colts for branding or sale. Others yelled out their branding marks, recognized on mares, and claimed the accompanying foals.

"The sun blazed; the sand blazed. Lookout Light's heat-shimmering shaft, flat as a white paint stripe against the sky's burning blue, constituted that wild spit's only sign of civilization. The men were shouting in their broad dialect, so like that of the rural England of their ancestors. The United States seemed worlds away.

Horses Dig Waterholes

"The heat drove some of them to a waterhole on the beach, where they lay prone and drank the blackish fluid. It was a wild animal's drinking place, for the banker ponies slake their thirst by scooping holes in the sand with their forefeet.

"Due to a tick epidemic, the ponies were driven into a dipping sluice, where they swam through a bath of arsenic and caustic soda. A green paint stripe, slashed across each emerging beast's flank, marked him as disinfected.

"The gates were then flung wide and the herd trotted forth to liberty, snorting disapproval of man and his strange ways; then a chosen dozen were auctioned off at about $6 a head. A few years ago these putative descendants of Raleigh's 'little Barbary ponies' were bringing from $50 to $125 apiece. The auctioneer, in explanation, complained, 'Tew much gasoline abaout naowadays!'

"The legendary North Carolinian who in the sixties called his three daughters Rosin, Tar, and Turpentine would to-day be naming them after tobacco brands, furniture trademarks, and cotton-goods patterns.

*For a complete pictorial survey and article on North Carolina, with a new wall map, see the National Geographic Magazine for May, 1926. In regard to illustrated articles and maps of other States see note following Bulletin No. 2.

loads of grain dispatched, only one would reach its destination, the rest being eaten or sold along the road."

When Wall Was Restored

Despite the time and labor expended upon it, Chin Shih Huang Ti's mud barrier soon crumbled away. There was so little left of it by the sixth century A. D. that dynasties spoke of building, not rebuilding the Great Wall. But when the Mings (1368 to 1644 A. D.) ousted the descendants of Genghis Khan from the Dragon Throne, the Great Wall again assumed much importance. The restorations of this period were solid and even elegant, long stretches being encased in brick or strengthend with blocks of stone.

Throughout the eastern section the wall was made 25 feet thick at the base, 15 feet at the top, and varied from 15 to 30 feet in height. It was in fact under the Mings that the defenses of the Great Wall were most fully developed, with more than 20,000 towers which were practically a chain of small fortresses, and over 10,000 signal beacons.

Bulletin No. 3, November 14, 1927.

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COMPRESSSING COTTON FOR SHIPMENT

North Carolina's bumper cotton crop was 1,000,000 bales in 1923, when only Texas surpassed her. Yet such is the growth of her textile industry that the State must import for her mills about 100,000 tons more than she can raise (see Bulletin No. 4).

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Correze: Where Chestnuts Come From

BECAUSE a blight has killed so many American chestnut trees, other countries where chestnuts are grown are taking special precautions to conserve their trees. One of the areas noted for its chestnuts is the Department (see map on following page) of Correze, in south central France.

This little known and picturesque area suggests a land of perpetual hallowe'en, since it produces walnuts and cider apples, as well as chestnuts. In reality it is a place where the struggle for existence has developed a serious, sturdy and grim type of people.

The area lies in the basin of the Garonne, which flows through one of the important valleys of Europe, although not so much is heard about it as the more famous valleys of the Rhine, the Rhone, the Po, and the vaster basin of the Danube.

Eat Meals From Hollowed Out Tables

The infrequent visitor to the basin of the Garonne will find families whose diet, in winter, consists largely of chestnuts and potatoes and goat cheese, who eat their simplest repast off tables with depressions hollowed from the wood to serve as plates, and have gravel floors in their tiny cottages. He may encounter inns, with their invariable menus of veal, buckwheat cakes and potatoes, where he is supposed to furnish his own knife, a custom surviving from not more than a century ago when the guest of a Provence hostelry was expected to carry his own cutlery.

But if this visitor thinks primitive conditions connote a backward people he will be as much surprised as many a city-bred recruit in the A. E. F. who took the literacy of a southern mountaineer to be a measure of his intelligence.

Correze has an area nearly equal to that of our own state of Delaware. It lies along the western edge of the grand central plateau of France. It is corrugated with valleys, ravines and gorges. "Moors, heaths and bracken" are words most needed in descriptions of its landscapes. Groves of chestnut trees, white birches, and walnut trees often give a suggestion of a gaunt New England scene. Only in an occasional valley is the soil fertile. Scattered over this Department are about as many people as live in Indianapolis.

The sons of Correze who rubbed elbows with Allied soldiers on the Western Front may have brought back news of the trade opportunities which lurked in the outside world. Perhaps that is why Correze farmers awoke to the fact that chestnuts they formerly gathered against the lean winter might have a higher value in exchange. Anyway they have found their way to the channels of American exports.

Chestnut Gathering First Step in Thrift

Chestnut gathering, rather than a savings account, represents the starting point of many a home in Correze. Communes usually owned the land about them and gave citizens legal title to tracts they cleared and cultivated. But it takes three or four years to produce a crop, and, in the meantime, many a young man has found his economic salvation in nut gathering. Mushrooms, which abound under the chestnut trees, afford another edible.

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Charlotte Spindle Center

"Charlotte, situated between the big hydroelectric developments along the Catawba and Yadkin rivers, is a plexus of this new industrialism. In the last twenty-five years the number of textile mills operating within a 100-mile radius of that city has increased fivefold, with a present spindleage of 10,000,000.

"An hour's ride beyond Charlotte we entered Gastonia, one of the largest textile centers in the United States. Of its 20,000 people, about three-fourths are workers in the forty-two mills whose tall stacks cut the sky. Yet, in the town's broad, tree-shaded streets, lined with neat cottages on well-kept, flower-fringed plots, one felt no oppressive sense of concentrated industry, but rather the restfulness of some model suburb, widespread to sun, air, and surrounding countryside.

"With mill workers' cottages rentable at $3 a month, with water and electric light free, and a mild climate, necessitating little fuel, which is obtainable at cost, it is not uncommon for mountain families to work at Gastonia long enough to pay off their farm mortgage and then return to the Blue Ridge.

"Gaston County contains ninety-eight textile mills, which represent one-sixth of the State's total spindleage and consume almost one-third of her cotton crop.

Mountain-Circled Asheville

"A few hours' drive from Chimney Rock farther into the mountains brought us to Asheville, the gateway to what North Carolinians have well named the Land of the Sky. Never was an altitude of half a mile above sea-level so unobvious, in all but the tonic atmosphere. Set in a vast bowl, Asheville is encircled by mountains whose twenty highest peaks top all altitudes in the eastern States. Could the Titans return, they might appropriately seat themselves on the surrounding crests of this mammoth amphitheater as spectators of one of Asheville's big golf or tennis meets.

"It was on the Biltmore estate, near Asheville, that, with the founding of a forestry school, the first steps in American forest conservation were taken.

"To-day there are established in this region, for the protection of watersheds and hardwood reserves, the Cherokee, Nantahala, Unaka, and Pisgah national forests. With a boundary which incloses more than 1,700,000 acres, the Government has acquired up to July, 1925, somewhat less than a fourth of this area. In the Pisgah, established in 1916 as a game preserve, native bear and deer roam, trout streams are stocked, and herds of bison and elk have been implanted.

Turning Back Time

"Surrounded by the modishness of Asheville, one scarcely realizes that only 50 miles away mountaineers are living a ruggedly simple existence behind hand-hewn timbers and on small 'switchback' farms, with Revolutionary looms and spinning wheels alongside their chimney pieces of native rock.

"It was a farseeing woman from among the 'boiled-shirt' life of Asheville who persuaded these remote, almost forgotten, mountain folk to set their long-idle looms going again. To-day there are half a dozen handicraft centers scattered through western North Carolina.

"Back in 1912, when only one North Carolinian in 380 owned a motor vehicle, the then-existing roads answered the needs of the day—answered, that is, in the sense that the single log across a North Carolina mountain stream then answered as a footbridge. They got you somewhere, no matter how.

"In 1921 the State legislature authorized $50,000,000 worth of road bonds. To-day the bond issues total $85,000,000.

"The State Highways Commission is spending annually $16 per capita, or twice the national average in road expenditure. It is completing yearly 1,000 miles of hard-surface thoroughfares, which serve the enormously increased traffic of one motor-vehicle to every eight citizens. This modern road system, exceeding 6,000 miles, costs the motorist 2½ cents per day, payable in gasoline tax and horse-power tax."

Not only is this land hard to clear and till, but the remoter sections know only the simplest tools. A plow is made of two poles, joined at an angle, with the ground end of the pole held by the man constituting the plowshare. Every hamlet has its church. To the pedestrian who would tramp through these parts and thus get the full flavor of the countryside, the angelus is a bell buoy for his inland travels from village to village, and the frequent creator of such scenes of simple devotion as that immortalized by Millet.

Tulle, with a population of fewer than 15,000, is the capital and principal city of Correze. Quaint houses line the streets of steps which ascend the slopes along the valley of the River Correze, on which Tulle is situated. Near the city are the beautiful Gimel Falls. In it is a firearms factory.

Bulletin No. 5, November 14, 1927.

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AN OUTLINE MAP OF THE PROVINCES OF FRANCE

For administrative purposes France is divided into 80 Departments of which Correze, mentioned in the above Bulletin, is one. However, the regions of France are known by the historic Provincial names, such as Brittany, Normandy, and so on. Correze is in the Province of Limousin. What American word do we get from the name of this province? Also, what can you tell about the Province of Flanders?